



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT FIRE MARSHAL'S ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

**HB-5175 AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO OBTAIN INSURANCE INFORMATION TO BE
FURNISHED RELATIVE TO FIRE OR EXPLOSION LOSSES**

Representative Horn, Senator Osten, Representative Paolillo, Senator Champagne, Representative Howard, and distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is Roger Nelson and I am the Fire Marshal for the Bloomfield Center Fire District and currently sit on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association.

The Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association *supports* **HB-5175 AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED RELATIVE TO FIRE OR EXPLOSION LOSSES.**

This bill unanimously passed the Judiciary Committee in 2018. The bill will allow police agencies to easily work together with local fire marshals. The bill as written would correct the problems that were created when then Governor Malloy separated the Office of State Fire Marshal and the State Police Fire Explosion and Investigation Unit (FEIU) into two different departments.

Since this change, a warrant is now required for a Fire Marshal to be able to share information obtained from insurance companies with law enforcement working the same fire incident.

The changes in the bill will be especially helpful in smaller towns that have Resident State Troopers and part time Fire Marshals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee.